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HOUSE BILL 1964 By
Phillips

SENATE BILL 1957
By Trail

AN ACT to name the Administration Building at the new Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County in honor of former Shelbyville Fire Chief Garland King.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should permanently commemorate the accomplishments of those sterling public servants who have served their respective communities with the greatest acumen, integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of special recognition than Garland King, who served with distinction as the City of Shelbyville's Fire Chief for 30 years before taking a much deserved retirement in 1999; and

WHEREAS, a native of Unionville in Bedford County, Garland King began his illustrious tenure with the Shelbyville Fire Department in 1959 under the tutelage of Chief Buck Foster, who instilled in Chief King the consummate professionalism that was the trademark of both their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Chief King has modestly attributed his success "in building one of the greatest fire departments in the state regardless of size" to the quality and dedication of his

firefighters and the City's foresight in purchasing and maintaining the best available firefighting equipment; and

WHEREAS, Chief King adroitly served his profession in numerous other capacities, including meritorious tenures as President of the Tennessee Firemen's Association and President of the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association, which he helped found; and

WHEREAS, he was always available to advise and counsel fellow fire chiefs and firefighters and even to assist them in the performance of their duties during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the crowning accomplishment of Chief King's illustrious career was the instrumental role he played in the development of the new Tennessee Fire Services and Codes Enforcement Academy and its subsequent location in Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, displaying the political acumen of a seasoned campaigner, Chief King traveled over 5,300 miles across the state with a 1944 fire truck to promote and educate the public about the Academy; and

WHEREAS, at every stop on the tour, Chief King made sure that people from all walks of life, including local government officials, legislators and even the Governor, placed their signature on the truck as a demonstration of their support for this much needed facility; and

WHEREAS, Chief King's tour, which he counts as one of the best experiences of his life, soon rallied public opinion in favor of the Academy and convinced the General Assembly and Governor to grant final approval for this worthy project; and

WHEREAS, scheduled to open in 2001, the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy will offer the latest in training technology, state-of-the-art equipment and a full spectrum of educational courses for fire service and codes enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS, the Academy's full service campus will feature dedicated structures for realistic fire and codes scenarios, a hands-on training center with specialized laboratories, modern classrooms with a supporting research library and a three-bay fire station with accommodations for 25 trainees; and

WHEREAS, the Academy's unique dual curriculum of fire and codes subject matter will be comprehensive and challenging and will produce certified professionals well trained in applicable state and national standards; and

WHEREAS, for 40 years, Chief Garland King dedicated himself and the resources of his department to the safety of his fellow Bedford Countians; in the final chapter of his indelible legacy as a firefighter and public servant he ensured the health, welfare and safety of both present and future Tennesseans by working tirelessly to make the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy a reality; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should not let this remarkable feat go unheralded; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Administration Building at the new Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County is hereby designated as the "Garland King Administration Building" as a lasting tribute to one of the most outstanding citizens and public servants this state has ever produced, Shelbyville Fire Chief Garland King, and his instrumental role in the development and location of the Academy.

SECTION 2. The State Fire Marshal is directed to erect suitable signs designating such edifice as the "Garland King Administration Building". The dimensions of such signs shall be at least four feet wide by six feet long (4'x6') with letters of proportional size.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.